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Cheryl,

On May 29, 2001, Verizon-Massachusetts ("Verizon") requested a growth code not ending in 3, 4, 5, or 9 in the 857 NPA, Boston Central rate center in order to accommodate the City of Boston's request for additional numbering resources. On June 1, 2001, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator ("NANPA") denied Verizon's request for the growth code because Verizon did not meet the FCC's month-to-exhaust criteria. On March 6, 2002, Verizon submitted a letter to the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") requesting that the Department overturn NANPA's denial of Verizon's request.

Having developed its policy concerning waiver requests in a series of Orders, the Department will now address waiver requests via staff directive rather than full Commission Order. Staff directives to NANPA will be issued only by the Department's designated numbering contact(s), and will be placed in the docket files at the Department offices and posted on the Department's website. Appeals of staff directives will be heard by the full Commission.

Verizon submitted confidential and proprietary information to the Department concerning its numbering resource inventory and utilization rates in the Boston Central rate center, and the Department is satisfied that Verizon is truly unable to meet the City of Boston's needs from its existing inventory. Verizon also submitted a letter from the City of Boston's Telecommunications Manager indicating that the construction and/or renovation of a large number of schools and libraries will quickly deplete the City's remaining unused numbers, and that a full exchange code is needed for proper growth potential. The Department is satisfied that Verizon's inability to meet the City of Boston's needs from its existing inventory is not the result of Verizon having managed its numbering resources in a manner contrary to the letter or spirit of regulatory number resource conservation requirements.

Therefore, pursuant to the Department's authority under 47 C.F.R. § 52.15(g)(3)(iii), NANPA is directed to assign an exchange code not ending in 3, 4, 5, or 9 to Verizon.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

**April Mulqueen**

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